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Progress for women faculty not seen

By CHARLIE EUCHNER
and SCOTT MILNER

Women will not receive equal opportunity as faculty members until some women are named as top administrators and an equitable pay scale is adopted, said a professor who has tangled legally with the University over women's rights.

But other prominent University women rejected preferential treatment in promotion of female professors, stressing instead more aggressive recruiting of women for faculty positons.

Walburga von Raffler Engel, professor of linguistics, said a lack of commitment by top Vanderbilt officials is the biggest barrier to progress for the women faculty. She said departments in the College of Arts and Sciences have too much autonomy for significant changes to occur.

"If I were (Provost Wendell Holladay), I would want to hire some women to high administrative positions. Then there would at least be the image of change," Engel said. "Then people would essentially be forced to recognize the fact that women can do the job."

"But the administration always says (when discussing alienation of women in certain departments), 'We leave it to the departments.' Right now, I don't talk to any administrators. There is simply no contact between administrators and faculty, and that is not good."

Engel said she was surprised by a remark made by Provost Holladay after the recent Board of Trust meeting about a woman faculty member's complaints of discrimination.

Asked whether his office had looked into Assistant Professor of English Melissa Cannon's charge that she was badgered by males in the department, Holladay said he did not. "I don't believe what I read in the papers," Holladay said in reference to a Hustler report which contained Cannon's remarks.

Women are doomed to a "revolving door" that makes promotion unlikely, Engel said, because the College does not actively recruit exceptional women to fill senior faculty positions that become vacant.

"The women they do get to be faculty members," Engel said, "are exclusively ones that just got their Ph.D.'s. It's almost automatic that women can't become department chairmen. They should fill some senior vacancies with women; then they can change the image. That's the thing that hasn't been done."

Engel received a $2,000 settlement from the University this February for a complaint she filed in 1972 with the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. Her complaint charged that she was denied a promotion as a retaliatory move because she once challenged the legality of having different pay scales for men and women faculty members.

Real equality for women in the faculty will probably not come until "the next generation," Engel said.

"Personally, I think the administration is afraid to adjust all salaries to men's levels," she said. "They would have to take it to the BOT and they wouldn't like to do that. The administration has always backed the departments ... and there is always the personality factor in the departments."

Associate professor Antonina Gove, this year's Faculty Senate chairman, said women faculty members at Vanderbilt could be increased "if it becomes a very high priority with high administrators." But, she added, she thinks women's faculty concerns do not have a high priority in Kirkland Hall.

Sex discrimination may be a factor in the extremely low number of tenured women faculty, Gove said, but statistics become meaningless when applied to so few cases.

"So few women are hired to tenure-track positions that one cannot say whether there is discrimination in tenure or not," she said.

There are now 10 non-tenured and seven tenured women in the College of Arts and Science; there are 33 non-tenured and 212 tenured men in the College.

Gove said she does not believe that women should receive special treatment in tenure decisions, even when there are no women in her department.

"I am concerned about the predicament of all non-tenured faculty, and not just women...If special treatment were given to women, it would create a class of second-class citizens at the University," Gove said.

Women's Center Director Nancy Ransom emphasizes more hiring of women faculty as the best way to get more tenured women.

She disagrees with the suggestion, however, that when individual women come up for tenure, they ought to be given any special attention.

"There's a tension between two very important goals of the University — of affirmative action, hiring or tenuring a larger proportion of women, and academic freedom and autonomy of departments in making decisions about hiring and tenure," Ransom said.

Survivors see ag 'apocalypse'

By SIDNEY ANDERSON

One of three surviving Agrarians said our society is nearing an "apocalyptic breakdown" and issued a call for a resurgence of the anti-industrialism ideals of the Agrarians in the final session of the "Fifty Years After" symposium last weekend.

Lyle Lanier, along with Andrew Lytle and Robert Penn Warren, participated in a panel discussion which was the culmination of the symposium celebrating the 50th anniversary of the publication of "I'll Take My Stand."

The three Agrarians claim the book is still pertinent to modern social and political problems, and each reaffirmed the original tenets of the Agrarian movement. The book has been criticized as being outdated, but the survivors clarified the lasting effects of the Agrarian manifesto.

Cleanth Brooks, emeritus professor of rhetoric at Yale and longtime student and friend of the Agrarians, was the moderator. Brooks described meeting Lanier, Lytle and Warren for the first time in 1924. "How my eyes popped to see them all there together," he said.

The three Agrarians each expressed a distinctive idea that repeatedly came out during the discussion. Lanier focused on the historical "irritants and conditions that brought us together" and then adapted the original position of the Agrarians to today's problems.

Lytle emphasized the importance of family and community; "we seem far better prophets than we knew (we would be)," he said. Warren, who was not in on the early days of the Agrarian discussions because he was in England, talked about the dehumanizing process of industrial society then and now, saying that society is "acutely" worse now.

Lanier said that energy and population must be decentralized and insisted that there be a movement from nuclear to solar energy.

"It's not going to be easy to decentralize or to have a neo-agrarian society," Lanier said.

Warren, whose original essay drew criticism from his fellow contributors because of its progressive view of the South's race question, said that he is ultimately concerned with "what happens to people, not race, but everyone."

"Man is a value-making animal, but he is also an economic man, a philosophical man, an art-making man, a myth-making

(See AGRARIANS, page 3)

© T. Weathers

Students dressed as their favorite Vanderbilt stereotypes for a Halloween party last weekend. Besides several private parties that saw students dressed up as everything from a hostage to a bag of M&M's, there was an open dance with 12 kegs at the Social Religious Building on the Peabody campus.

Election importance varied for VU officials

By SUSAN THURBER

Vanderbilt officials say today's presidential election will not affect them too much — unless a victory by Ronald Reagan is accompanied by large GOP gains in Congress — but generally said they preferred the reelection of President Carter.

Women's Center Director Nancy Ransom and environmental engineering professor Edward Thackston said they sympathized with Reagan's views on women's issues and the environment, but that national security issues were more important anyway.

Financial Aid Director David K. Smith and Peabody Dean Willis Hawley said the election's outcome will not affect their professional lives much.

Despite the furor over Reagan's opposition to the Equal Rights Amendment, Ransom said: "I don't think any changes will be drastic or rapid. The problem that concerns women in this election is: can the nominee meet the campaign promise?"

President Carter and former California Governor Reagan oppose federal funding of abortions, and Reagan supports moves for a Constitutional amendment banning abortions. "I think it's tragic that the Republican Party has reneged on its traditional position," Ransom said.

Ransom said the government should not have the authority to decide the legality of abortion. "Adults ought to be responsible enough to make this decision themselves," she said.

Education school dean Hawley sees major education policy changes only if the Republicans capture majorities in the Senate and House of Representatives.

The Republicans might slant financial aid toward the middle class and cut research funding for desegregation and the handicapped, Hawley said.

"A demand is created by a problem," Hawley said. "President Carter has put a lot of money into the federal education system, and therefore the demands of education are not pressing at this time."

"We wouldn't see any major changes in our capacity to be effective," Hawley said.

Carter and Reagan have taken two diametrically opposing stances on the problems of the environment in this campaign.

"Ninety percent of the environmentalist vote will go to Carter, but I sympathize with Reagan because of the uneconomical aspect of the environmental regulations Carter has proposed," Thackston said.

Chester Wright

Environmental engineering professor Edward Thackston says he doesn't think the election of Ronald Reagan will kill the environment. Some environmental protection regulations now in effect, he says, are unnecessary.

Thackston, as an engineer, has had to work with the environmental regulations as they now stand, and he claims that a lot of the regulations are ridiculous and unnecessary.

Both candidates are justified in their positions on certain grounds, he said. "There is over-regulation in one area and not enough regulation in another area; what we need is a more objective candidate. I'm afraid that both positions are extremes," he said.

The effect of the election on the Vanderbilt environmental engineering department will depend on the shape of the economy, Thackston said. A recession would benefit Vanderbilt's graduate engineering school, he said, though he wouldn't wish such a blight on either candidate.

"Nobody is going to graduate school these days because there is such a demand for engineers right now that people with a bachelor's degree are going out and making $24,000," Thackston said.

The benefits of a Reagan victory would be twofold for the engineering school at Vanderbilt, Thackston said. First, Thackston said he has faith in Reagan's ability to revive the economy, which would mean the possibility of greater federal funding for Vanderbilt.

Second, Reagan has proposed that more time and money be spent on the development of coal as an alternative energy source, which would, in turn, mandate a great deal of research at the graduate level.

"There will be benefits to our area from either candidate; there are more important issues to be considered in this election, such as the economy and national security," Thackston said.

Smith is confident about the stability of the financial aid program at Vanderbilt. "I have not found much difference between the Democratic and Republican platforms concerning the issue of financial aid," Smith said.

(See ELECTION, page 5)

Luce good experience, but language a barrier

By LIZ GOULIAN

Luce scholarship winners said their year in Asia greatly broadened their knowledge of Third World nations, but one found language a barrier in his appreciation of the culture.

The scholars, selected on the basis of their leadership potential, serve as professional apprentices under the guidance of Asian political and academic leaders.

The University committee is now nominating three candidates to compete in the Luce scholarship program. The deadline for applications is Nov. 14.

The program, begun in 1973 by the Henry Luce Foundation, chooses only those scholars who "have not had significant exposure" to Asia and who are not in international studies.

"The program's aim is to help spread American understanding of Asia into areas that would not normally receive exposure," Reba Wilcoxon, associate to the chancellor and coordinator of the competition, said.

Each year 15 students from 60 participating colleges and universities participate in the program. Vanderbilt has had four winners and four finalists so far, Wilcoxon said.

Last year's winner, Robert Fancher, was a graduate student in philosophy. Fancher is spending the year at the University of Seoul in Korea.

William Davnie — who won in 1974 and is now a preacher in North Dakota — was a graduate student in the divinity school and spent his year in Indonesia.

"Being a Luce scholar was a rare opportunity for me to study outside of my chosen field. It also allowed me to get in touch with fellow Presbyterians in Indonesia in my free time, which broadened my global perspective immensely," Davnie said.

Davnie studied Islamic political thought and taught English at the Islamic Teachers College in Djakarta. "I gathered concrete data on Third World functions which gave me a basis on which to speak about peasants in Asia," he said.

Vanderbilt's second winner was Kevin McDonald, an Arts and Science major, who spent 1978 in the Philippines.

Gerald Casenave, the 1979 winner, was a Vanderbilt alumnus who graduated two years earlier. Casenave was placed in the College of Chinese Culture in Taipai, Taiwan, where he taught Chinese philosophy.

Casenave said he believes the program works best for those who want to stay in Asia an extra year on their own after the initial adjustment year.

"I regret that the trip took me away from the U.S. job market for a year," Casenave said. He now lives in Illinois and is unemployed. Casenave has a Ph.D. in philosophy.

The University selects its nominee based on a 1,000-word personal statement, their academic record, and four letters of recommendation.

An equally important consideration is "the committee's opinion of how well the applicant would adjust to eastern or southeastern Asia, and how he or she might fit into the native, foreign culture," Wilcoxon said. The selection committee is made up of people who have lived in the Far East and have an idea what the experience entails.

The University committee selects three nominees to the Luce Foundation. Qualified candidates must be American citizens, have at least a bachelor's degree before entering the program, and be no more than 29 years old by Sept. 1, 1981.

This means the competition is open not only to seniors, but graduate students and alumni as well. Wilcoxon said she worries that "senior students may feel unqualified in comparison to the older candidates, and this is simply not true. The committee is also eager to attract more women into the competition."

Forty-five finalists will be selected, from which 15 winners will be named by mid-March.

Interested applicants should contact the following faculty members in their respective schools. Arts and Science students should see Milan Mihal; Engineers — Dean Roger Webb; Nurses — Susan Morgan; Peabody students — Raymond Norris; Law students — Harold Maier; Owen Graduate School of Management students — James Rawls; Divinity students — Donald Beisswenger; Graduate students — John Post; and Medical students — H.C. Meng.

Agrarians...

(From page 1)

man — all are value producing and must be discussed together," Warren said.

"But you must not forget man is a family man," Lytle said. "It is from the idea of the family man that one gets 'a sense of self,'" he said.

"There's nothing to sustain man. Southerners know you have to have property, and that's gone," said Lytle, who lives on a farm in Monteagle, Tenn.

Brooks called Lytle's musings part of his renowned "Rutherford County metaphysics."

"There are not individuals in our society," Warren said. "Masses is the key word ... politicians are just made of pieces of the masses. There are no distinctions any more. Intelligence makes distinctions.

"Human values have to change; the work ethic has been over-done; there must be a revolution in values, and this was and is our argument ... there must be a neo-agrarian society," Warren said in summing up the sentiments of the Agrarians looking back 50 years and ahead to the next 50.

The discussion ended with remarks by President Emmett Fields, symbolizing the recognition now given the Agrarians.

Robert Penn Warren, left, and Lyle Lanier participated in a panel discussion Saturday in the culmination of "Fifty Years After," a symposium on the Agrarian manifesto, "I'll Take My Stand."

Larry Stubbs

Why we're stuck with Jimmy and Bonzo

By CHARLIE EUCHNER

Today is the day on which millions of Americans will walk into voting booths, flip a coin, pull a lever, and go home to ~~engage in heavy drinking to console themselves.~~ Today is election day and, even for those who see stark differences in the two main presidential candidates, there is disappointment that The System gives us Ronald Reagans and Jimmy Carters.

On the surface, it would seem that few people have a right to whine about the depressing state of affairs. Both Reagan and Carter received overwhelming mandates by their parties, and a record number of people voted in the plethora of primaries.

Our present primary system is a product of McGovernesque reform — designed to keep leadership selection in the hands of the people and out of the hands of old-style political bosses — and perspectives pushed by over-cautious and over-worked media.

The nominating process has such little structure and takes so much time that the best candidates are either repelled by the thought of endless months of campaigning or they are defeated by candidates so single-minded that they will endure any absurd drama to become president.

In effect, presidential campaigns now last about two years. Rep. Philip Crane, R-N.Y., announced his candidacy in the fall of 1978 — well over two years before the election.

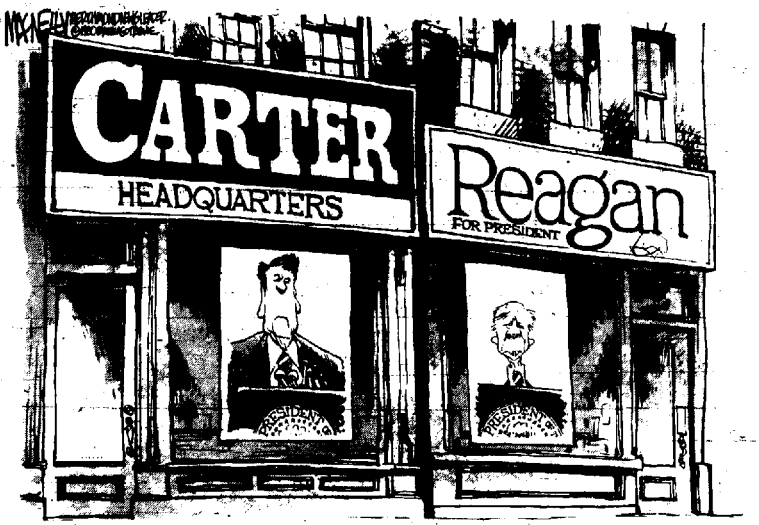
The campaign is such a time-consuming, mind-dulling exercise that the really qualified men — members of Congress — are almost shut out from the beginning. One case in point is Sen. Howard Baker, R-Tenn., who did not actively campaign until it was almost too late — January of this year.

So what we have ended up with for the last two elections are two incumbent presidents and two mediocre ex-governors. The presidents got their nominations largely because of the powers of incumbency and the electoral games they have played with that incumbency. The former governors got the nomination because they had years to plan and campaign for the office.

The primary campaign should be shortened and, to use that awfully bureaucratic word, streamlined. Reform to make the nominating process less of an endurance game is needed to eliminate the superficial candidates and give the exceptional ones a chance.

~~Instead of spreading the primaries from February to June,~~ there should be four or five regional primaries over a three-month period. The order in which these contests should be held should be random, so that no one region has an unfair advantage over others the way New Hampshire now does over other states.

Of course, changing a primary system is not going to do it all. Before we see a real, enlightening discussion of the issues and thoughtful selection of the candidates, there has to be more



daring media.

As Bill Moyers, the fine journalist for Public Broadcasting System, points out, the campaign is covered too much like a battle of a couple of heavyweight personalities — and not enough like a battle of ideas. Ignoring "fringe" candidates — those put up by anyone besides the Democrats and Republicans — is the biggest problem.

"It's always been basically a contest of personalities, a contest between two combatants in a game for power, not a struggle for leadership and policy in our society," Moyers said. "So therefore the journalists who play by the rules of the game tend to exclude anyone who isn't seen to be a heavyweight contender in the main bout.

"Commoner or Clark or whoever are assessed not by the right of their ideas, but by their traditional standing of success and failure in American politics; does he have a chance to be president? The traditional press does not consider ideas to be a force in American politics. They look for strength in numbers, chances of winning."

That is why the Carter-Reagan debate was so pleasing to many people; it delineated the stark differences of the two candidates. Viewers did not have to hear the discordant notes of a John Anderson or Barry Commoner or Ed Clark — and Carter and Reagan did not have to deal with their ideas.

Most people, reporters included, have preferred to cast aside the messages of these men, even though dealing with them would have been ultimately useful.

Charlie Euchner, a junior in the College of Arts and Science, is the editor of The Hustler.

The chancellor misled me

By BRIAN ROSMAITA

I have to apologize. In my Oct. 28 article about the Board of Trust's limited observation policy, I inadvertently misread the BOT press release and left out an important fact.

The Board added two faculty members and one student to the ranks of those allowed the "privilege" (their word) of addressing it. What I didn't realize was that the number of people allowed to address it had first been cut down from 12 to three — and then the three "additional" persons were added.

Being made a fool of I can live with. What hurts most of all is the fact that Chancellor Alexander Heard, who was until then my idol, told an untruth (I can't bring myself to admit he could have possibly lied). He told members of the press that this policy change was "in the continuing tradition of allowing more accessibility to the BOT." Let's be serious.

1. Three persons have priority access to the Board.

2. Three more may address the BOT at their own initiative.

3. The chancellor may invite up to six more people to address the Board — or he may invite none at all.

The three facts above reflect no additional accessibility to the Board of Trust. Accessibility has stayed the same only if the chancellor invites six people; otherwise, it has been cut in half. In view of his "continuing tradition" statement, I don't think we can count on him for it.

With Chancellor Heard no longer my idol, I find that I must now drift into the ranks of those people, those subversives, who constantly criticize the Student Government Association. So here goes.

Tasia Theoharotos, by trying to be reasonable, you have succeeded only in having the number of students allowed to address the BOT reduced. You, being a politician, should well know that reason has no place in politics. When the board saw that you weren't going to fight for open meetings, it decided to take advantage (being a subversive I can make statements like this) and reduced the effective number of students allowed to address it by 66 percent, and won't review the policy until spring 1984 (note the significance of the date).

Tasia, as I see it, you have two courses of action open to you:

1. You can continue on your present course.

2. You can threaten self-immolation at the spring 1981 meeting unless the Board reinstates its old policy and throws in open meetings as a symbol of good faith.

I must point out, though, if you choose No. 2 you will have to burn for four years, since I'm sure the board won't break parliamentary procedure by considering a statement before it comes up on the agenda. But if you want to try, you have my blessing.

The two courses of action show how helpless we students are unless we take extreme stances. If the SGA had backed open meetings, we may not have gotten them. But you can be sure the BOT wouldn't have tried its policy maneuver in the face of an undivided student body.

Brian Rosmaita, a freshman in the College of Arts and Science, is a staff writer for The Hustler.

the vanderbilt hustler

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letters

Ex-student raps prof on tenure

To the Editor:

Professor Harrison Schlesinger's letter of Oct. 21 also deserves some comment. Obviously a competence in both teaching and research is often the basis for tenure at Vanderbilt. Just as obviously, the criteria is sometimes research alone, in the case of teachers who cannot teach. I never suggested that research should be dropped as a consideration in this matter; if one criteria alone is to be used in case, however, let it be teaching.

I sincerely question Schlesinger's assertion that "no good method of testing how well knowledge has been transmitted is available." If this is true, what is the point of basing grades, and often therefore entire careers, on tests, tests and more tests? Why subject the students to all

(See LETTERS, page 5)

Blount, promoting book, speaks here today

By JULIA HOWARD

Roy Blount, author of "Three Bricks Shy of a Load" and "Crackers" said English professor Vereen Bell taught him everything he knew — but Bell says that isn't true and that it all began as a joke during a toast at a rehearsal dinner.

"I said I taught Roy everything he knew, and he retorted with 'Yes, but I didn't know shit then,'" Bell said. "I don't imagine I really had any influence on him at all."

But Bell was influential in bringing Blount to Vanderbilt to give three seminars this week, starting yesterday. The remaining two are today and tomorrow at 4 p.m. in 118 Sarratt.

"I think Roy writes as well or better than anyone I know writing now. He has a tremendous command of the language and whips it into obedience," Bell said.

Blount was in Nashville Oct. 30 promoting his book "Crackers," which is about "his being from Georgia and Jimmy Carter's being from Georgia. It's about being a Georgia 'cracker' and about the South," Bell said.

"Carter is a symbol of everything really bad that has happened in this country — the rejection of everything rigorously pluralistic in American life and the drift toward a common denominator.

"Carter has transcended his roots and disassociated himself from his 'crackerness' and 'redneckness,'" Bell said.

"Most people say it's the funniest book they ever read," he said.

Blount's first seminar was about his experience as a sports writer. His book, "Three Bricks Shy of a Load," is about the Pittsburgh Steelers, whom he lived with for a year. Blount studied at Vanderbilt as a Grantland Rice scholar, and was sports editor and editor of The Hustler. In the early stages of his career he wrote for Sports Illustrated.

The subject of his second seminar is Southern journalistic sensibility as opposed to Southern literary sensibility. The third seminar will be about the ins and outs of freelance writing versus magazine or newspaper staff writing.

"Roy will answer questions about what kinds of insecurities you have to deal with as a freelance writer as opposed to the securities of a position with a corporation, such as an expense account, retirement and health insurance benefits," Bell said.

"He'll probably tell you that it's difficult, if not impossible to make a living as a freelance writer."

Blount has been a freelance writer for about three years, and still does some work for Sports Illustrated and Esquire.

Seventeen years ago, the English department had a genuine and cohesive honors program, Bell said. "Roy and the woman who was to be his first wife were the stars of it.

"His book, Crackers, is basically the kind of thing he wrote in his editorials when he was editor of The Hustler. The book is mostly digression looped into the thesis. It's eccentric," he said.

Bell said that some of Blount's book is made up and some of it is reported. It is hilarious anecdotes of people and characters, he said, that is in essay form but not conventional form.

There is a whole chapter of country music songs Blount has written, but which have never been sung, and another on eating a possum, about cooking it and what it looks like when it's cooked.

A chapter entitled "Pissing and Moaning" is about Blount recycling his own urine on a compost heap in the backyard of his farm.

"Juniors" is about being a "junior" somebody and thus always associated with one's father in a subordinate role. "It makes you his shadow. A lot of it is about Roy's own father," Bell said.

There are two good chapters on Billy Carter, Bell said, with whom Blount is basically sympathetic. "Roy sees Jimmy and Billy Carter as two disastrous halves of one person. Billy doesn't give a shit about what people think, and we need more of Billy and less of Jimmy in the White House."

Bell said the book compares the brothers to a blueberry cobbler. "Billy's the hot blueberry sauce bubbling up through Jimmy's carefully-cut pastry crust," he said.

McGill residents get course on 'the moral life'

By JOHN MONROE

"On Living the Moral Life" will be the topic of a three-hour seminar course to be taught exclusively to McGill residents by Mark Bandas, the head resident advisor at McGill Hall, next semester.

The McGill dorm seminars, which have been taught for six years, are open only to McGill residents, so the students get to know the instructor on a personal basis.

Bandas, a graduate student in philosophy, prasies the format of the course as its strongest asset. "It's not this anonymous face," he said of the teacher-student relationship. He cites this as a powerful advantage over University lecture courses.

Bandas also praises McGill's "strong sense of community," which he said "facilitates discussion in and outside of the class."

"The atmosphere of trust and support will lead to more open discussions," he said.

Students are more at ease with a course of such an informal nature, according to Bandas. He explained that many students have a fear of taking even an introductory course in some subject areas. "There are people who have admitted to me that they would never have taken a philosophy course (if it were not for the seminar)."

Bandas believes that all departments would benefit from such a course. "On the face it strikes me as something other dorms should do," he said. Bandas said he think that phobias people have for certain subject areas could be dealt with more easily because "they would have a sense of psychological comfort." He believes that this security would encourage people to "come in and talk about what they thought the reading was about."

Bandas conducted a survey to determine McGill residents' interests and experiences with philosophy. Past topics have been "An Introduction to Existentialism," "Philosophy of Religion," and "The Mind-Body Problem."

Readings, which have already been assigned for next semester will include Plato's "The Republic," Kant's "The Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals," and Kafka's "The Metamorphis." The course will require several short papers, one long paper, and a final examination.

Grades are generally higher in the McGill seminar than in other courses, according to Bandas. "I would hope that the grades would be better (than in other courses) because the students are better motivated in such a small course," he said.

"People really have to screw up to get an 'F.' I have never heard of anyone receiving an 'F,'" said Robert Skucy, last year's seminar instructor. Skucy's class everage was a 'B.'

Bandas is looking forward to teaching the course as he finishes his Ph.D. dissertation concerning the "philosophy of the mind." He received his master's degree from Vanderbilt, and his B.A. from Connecticut College.

Election...

(From page 2)

According to Smith, the candidates have not addressed themselves specifically enough to the problem of financial aid for there to be any real concern aroused.

The Democrats have traditionally been more attentive to the demands of financial aid, Smith said. "In actuality, there's really not much difference between the two parties."

"Congress has much more control than the president," Smith said, "but (due to the higher education amendments of 1980) things are pretty well locked in for the next five years. I don't see any major shifts pending," he said.

Letters ...

(From page 4)

of that if it is nonsense?

Lastly, let me say that I wrote my original letter because my letter to the head of the English department did not have the desired effect. That is, Dr. Cannon did not receive tenure.

When this came to my attention, I wished for others to know what a loss the University had suffered because of what still seems to me a system of evaluation more concerned with appearance than with substance. I had something to say to the department and said it, months ago; more recently, I had something to say to the University as a whole, and I said that, too. I wish that in the future, Schlesinger would be a bit less the pedant, at least until he has been a bit more the enquirer after knowledge.

William Sharp
Alumnus 1979

'Convulsions' explained

To the Editor:

As one of the people "going through various stages of convulsions" at the Actuals' late show a few weeks ago, let me try to explain to David Rift the difference between what he saw and what the rest of us experienced.

Just what did you expect? I mean, if you're urbane enough to spend an evening listening to Beethoven, Liszt, et al, surely you must be well enough informed to know what New Wave music is all about.

Loud, fast, simple, repititious — everything about rock and roll that our mothers ever warned us about. You just sound like a victim of being in the wrong place at the wrong time. (Wrong place for you, wrong time for the rest of us).

You say "Maybe if I could understand..." But that's just the point. We weren't there to "understand." I would think that, as an English major, you would get tired of analyzing things. Apparently not.

I really don't think that New Wave lends itself to serious, in-depth analysis, but if you really want to worry about interpreting the "discourse sounds" and counting the minor scales, go ahead. Just do it in the back corner — the rest of us want to dance. (Try doing that to Beethoven and company!)

Steve Walker
Engineering 4

Stereo switch for WRVU is delayed

WRVU, which was scheduled to go stereo last Saturday, has yet to begin this new operation due to "technical difficulties," said station manager Ted Vagelos.

According to Vagelos, the engineers at WRVU, Barry Aniaz, Dave Parks, and Randall Brown, have made two attempts at converting the transmitter to stereo, both of which failed.

"We have tried to convert to stereo two times but both times we have had problems converting the transmitter over," Vagelos said.

Neither the engineers nor Vagelos know exactly what is wrong with the transmitter nor when the conversion to stereo might take place. "I have no idea when we are going to get it," Vagelos said.

In response to a note from Vagelos to Parks, the chief student engineer, requesting a timetable for when the conversion might be made and what the problem was with the transmitter, Parks responded, "You tell us."

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Larry Stubbs

Metro Police Chief Joe Casey said he was misquoted in a Tennessean story and never wanted pot-pushers to get the chair.

Pot pushers shouldn't get the chair: Casey

By BRIAN ROSMAITA

Metro Police Chief Joe Casey clarified his statements concerning marijuana and electrocution, saying that he favors the death penalty only for "habitual offenders."

His original statements had appeared in a Tennessean article by Linda Solomon headlined "Pot Causes Crime, Pushers Should Get Chair: Chief Casey."

Casey said that his words had been taken out of context, but Solomon said, "It's simply not true. The article was a direct transcript from a tape of the interview."

His original statements had been such that "some people had it that I wanted people electrocuted for smoking just one joint. I never said that." In the article, he also equated pot with hard drugs such as cocaine and heroin.

Casey claimed to be a victim of sensationalism. "I had been talking about all narcotics, and they called back and asked if that included marijuana," Casey said. "I said, 'Yeah, marijuana's a drug.'"

The statement was only meant to include pushers, growers, or manufacturers of narcotics, Casey said. "I didn't say anything about smoking or using it."

"What we're doing now is not stopping the drug problem," Casey continued. "But I only suggested the electric chair as a last resort."

Casey gauged the reaction to his statement as "real positive." "We got 115 phone calls and letters, with only 11 against."

"It was for pushers, not users. Everybody makes mistakes," Casey said. "I didn't mean it for first or even second offenses, just for habitual offenders."

The chief also said he favored the death penalty for third-time offender growers of marijuana. "I'd have to think that if they're growing enough to get caught, it's not grown for personal consumption, but with intent to distribute," he said.

'Crackers' is what we've all been talking about

By TERRY DUGAN

I'm pissed off. I come from a small town in the mountains of North Carolina to the Bucknell of the South, major in philosophy for four years and finally, finally, when I get to thinking that I have a right to say things, things which are open-minded but not gullible, common sense but not boorish, sensitive but not uncritical, and liberal but not stupid, along comes Roy Blount, Jr.

Roy Blount, Jr., has a new book out, called "Crackers." For the moment, let's be simple and say that the book is about the Carter administration and family, and Georgia in general.

What pisses me off is that Blount makes a lot of points that I have been making to my Liberal Northeastern Jewish/Lesbian-jackboots friends for months now. Which means that I can't make a career writing about these rational insights it has taken me four years to develop. Roy, I figure you owe me about $30,000.

Enough prolegomenal bull; let's review the book.

"Crackers" is a very funny book: lots of italics and capital letters (whole words full of them) and exclamation bangs and Georgia drawl; lots o' coon-huntin' tales an' sech. Plenty of jes-sittin'-inbred-on-the-porch yocks, enough to keep the Northeastern Superiority Complex (an entity not unlike the military-industrial complex) laughing heartily, in unison, for hours.

"Crackers," though, is a book with many levels (well, maybe not many, but several), many of which will be lost on most readers. The book is quite sufficient as a straight (well...?) work of journalism. At first, the book gives the impression of being only that: journalism of the New variety. Imagine Tom Wolfe if he drank something stronger than white wine, or Hunter Thompson on beer or Joan Didion if her testes were more fully developed.

"Crackers" gives us an initially shallow view of what it means "to be from Georgia," an inside view of campaigning for president in high school gyms, and being introduced by Jerry Clower.

The last half of the book is different. This makes some sense since "Crackers" was assembled partly (mostly?) from magazine pieces written by Blount over the past four years (there is something shoddy and contrary-to-art and enviably a sign of success to get paid twice for the same piece).

Starting with a chapter entitled "Early Billy," the book begins to, in Blount's words, "SCRATCH. DIG. HEAVE." The humor and journalism is still there: Blount tells more real-sounding and funnier things about Billy Carter than most of us have heard before.

As the book progresses, Blount begins to show that he has more than grit in his craw. He exhibits a command of rhetorical technique that is subtle (subtle enough for the laughing-out-loud reader to miss) yet effective. Here the comparison shifts from a broad-axe New Journalist style to something akin to E.B. White.

White would start out talking about racoons or hurricanes and end up making a point about nuclear disarmament or the booberies of the airwaves.

Blount starts out telling us how Billy Carter said, "There's a helluva lot more Arabians than there is Jews," and ends up making a rational and palatable comment on the impact of the "Jewish Community" on American media and politics.

He starts out talking about how a homosexual writer for the Village Voice can use imagery that would get a hetero from Georgia laughed out of the room, at best, and ends up making a valid criticism of the Gay Rights movement and rights movements in general. And all the while, he is pushing the readers toward an understanding of what it's like to be a long way from New York City.

What Blount finally reveals about "this whole, many-angled thing" is the three sides of Georgia (very probably Southern, possibly of the whole hinterland) Soul: first is the goodnatured but bigoted, ignorant, mythical good ol' boy; second, coming with a little education or possession of a tv is the self-consciousness of ignorance; third, coming with a lot of education or from plain stubbornness, is the Man from Georgia who knows what he knows as well as anyone else.

The Yankees will guffaw at this book, at Blount tawkin' hick fer th' tourists. The Crackers will be either proud or offended, for the wrong reasons. So it goes.

Blount, a Vanderbilt alumnus, manages to get in a few elbow-jabs at Vanderbilt, coeds, and even the Tri-Delts. I guess you never get it out of your system.

Link made to Europe in Agrarian symposium

Friday morning's session of the symposium "I'll Take My Stand: Fifty Years After" was an exploration of the book's intellectual ties to the mainstreams of European civilization.

Lewis P. Simpson, Boyd professor of English at Louisiana State University, spoke on "The Southern Republic of Letters and I'll Take My Stand."

In a very entertaining lecture, Robert Heilman commented on "Spokesman and Seer: The Agrarian Movement and European Culture." Heilman is professor of English, emeritus, at the University of Washington.

Simpson drew some very complicated parallels between "I'll Take My Stand" as a philosophical tract and European traditions dating back to the French Encyclopedists of the 18th Century. "They were proposing that the complete social, economic and philosophical system be based on pre-French Revolution Euroipe," Simpson said.

The Vanderbilt Agrarians, who saw themselves as the "last Europeans," according to Simpson, advocated a return to a philosophy that valued thinking in addition to emotional feeling.

"The South of the Agrarians represented the intellectual situation of Western Civilization with the relation between mind and society somewhat confused. Poets, and many of the Agrarians were poets, were alienated from the mind as it was defined by science."

Simpson defined the contrasting Society of History and Science with the Organic Society and implied that they represented the Northeast and the South, respectively.

According to Simpson, the motive of "I'll Take My Stand" was "to invest the literary mind with the spiritual power it needed to survive in an increasingly scientific world."

Heilman, the self-designated "token Yankee," brought an outsider's approach to this distinctively Southern book. Much of his lecture was drawn from his youthful experiences on a farm in rural Pennsylvania.

"I was amazed when I got down here (to the South) and found the sense of exaltation of the land and agrarianism. I remembered farm life as an endless repitition of 16-hour workdays."

He continued to explain that he came South partly "because country life began to seem closed. It was something that there was an end to rather than a boundless traditional way of life."

The body of Heilman's talk dealt only with "I'll Take My Stand" as a representation of an agrarian philosophy "although we all understand that it was much more than that."

One of the book's primary values, according to Heilman, is as an extended metaphor that is "conditionally symbolic of old value and is conditionally utopian." By "conditionally utopian," Heilman explained that he read the book not as a series of prescriptions for living but more as "a presentation of possibilities that life can be better; pursuable betterments."

Although he found the book too sophisticated for simple inclusion in the literary mainstream of the pastoral tradition, Heilman noted the large number of pastoral elements in "I'll Take My Stand" that are echoes from earlier literature. He quoted extensively from a wide range of works in English and American literature to support his argument.

The primary value of the pastoral elements in the work, Heilman said, was "to underline the durability of the concepts of dissent versus the dogma of industry as leading inevitably to well-being."

"The South," Heilman concluded, "enjoyed a victory in that the book helped create a morale, a sense of a way to live that was crucial to the literary flowering that was to come later."

Quixote is a good novel; play is not as successful

By STEVEN W. WAY

"Don Quixote" has been called the world's greatest novel, a work whose depiction of a boundless man caught within the limits of a mortal world formed the basis for modern novels.

If the novel challenges and inspires, the stage version, opening at St. Augustine's chapel on campus last weekend, does not.

Though it well staged and includes some ingenious musical numbers, "Man of La Mancha" never decides never decides whether it wants to be a farce of post-chivalric Spain or a play that takes seriously the pitiful story of a dreamer in a dreamless world. It tries, but cannot be both.

Lee Green, who directs the musical that will also appear Nov. 6-9 and 13-16 at 8 p.m., took on a monumental task in casting a play with 11 male roles and only three female parts.

Surprisingly, each actor has an adequate voice and stage presence — it is puzzling, though, why some of the best actors with the best voices are cast in minor roles. Gardner Rhea, who dubs Don Quixote, is one of the few actors whose voice resounds throughout the chapel, but he takes an active role in the play for five minutes at the most.

The play starts on a promising note. Richard Northcutt, who plays Don Quixote, and Rob Daugherty, his sidekick playing Sancho, appear to make a good team. Their opening number, "Man of La Mancha," is done with excitement and good interaction — one of the few inspiring numbers in the play.

Unfortunately, the play does not reach similar heights following that scene. Instead of inspiring the audience — bringing it to the idealist visions of Don Quixote — the cast appears to be staging a skit in a dungeon.

The viewer never feels like he is on the plains of central Spain; the anxiety of being told to dream in a dreamless world is never transmitted.

The majority of problems stem from central characters, most of whom seem to have made up their own interpretation of the play.

Bonnie Lancaster, who plays Aldonza, takes us on an emotional roller coaster ride. Her performance, which goes from a silly "aw shucks" attitude to a melodramatic crescendo and back again — in about four minutes — just does not flow.

Neither is Quixote played with conviction or purpose. Northcutt's performance of "The Impossible Dream" is disappointing in its lack of energy and power. A monotonic Quixote does not fit the play.

Daugherty as Sancho has a wide spectrum of emotions at his disposal and plays them all well. His trouble lies in switching his mood so often — from the nervous man servant to the jolly Joe — so that the audience doesn't know how to assess him.

The play has its inspiring numbers. "I'm Only Thinking of Him," and "To Each His Dulcinella" are charming in their simplicity and subtle overtones. Both of these are performed by minor characters. In fact, the minor characters overall give a more convincing show.

Ken Dinella, who plays "The Padre," gets one of the few enthusiastic responses from an otherwise subdued audience. Both his voice and his acting ability are sincere — not jumpy or flamboyant like Sancho or Aldonza, but consistent and reassuring.

Dan Paxon, who plays The Barker, has clued in to the theme of hope that the play should portray. His solo number, and one of the play's most professional, is upbeat in tempo without showing off-the-wall silliness.

Indeed, its ability to establish the essential camaraderie between audience and actors is "Man of La Mancha's" greatest flaw.